

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TU

SUBJECT:US WITHDRAWAL FROM KARAMURSEL: PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: ANKARA 1923 (141140Z MAR 78)

1. IN COURSE OF BRIEFINGS ON ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS
ON FY 1979 SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR GREECE AND TURKEY, DEPT
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AND DOD OFFICIALS INFORMED CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS OF US
INTENT TO TERMINATE ACTIVITIES AT KARAMURSEL CDI IN 1978.
SAME INFO IS ALSO INCLUDED IN UNCLASSIFIED FACT SHEET ON
US FACILITIES IN GREECE AND TURKEY WHICH WE HAVE CIRCULA-
TED AMONG STAFFERS. USAF IS IN PROCESS OF INFORMING APPRO-
PRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ACCORDING TO STANDARD PRO-
CEDURES APPLICABLE TO BASE CLOSURES.

2. NEITHER DEPT NOR DOD PLANS TO ISSUE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON US WITHDRAWAL FROM KARAMURSEL. HOWEVER, IN EVENT OF MEDIA INQUIRY, WE PLAN TO RESPOND ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. BEGIN TEXT: AS PART OF A LONG-RANGE PROGRAM, THE US PLANS TO PHASE OUT ALL ACTIVITIES AT THE KARAMURSEL COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATION IN 1978. THIS ACTION HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY AND HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOME TIME. ITS PURPOSE IS TO ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMY BY CONSOLIDATING MISSIONS NOW ASSIGNED TO KARAMURSEL WITH THOSE CARRIED OUT AT OTHER

LOCATIONS. END TEXT.

3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR USE BY US OFFICIALS IN PARA 5 REFTEL ARE APPROVED EXCEPT FOR QUESTIONS A, B, C, AND D. THESE SHOULD BE REPLACED BY THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

A. QUESTION: WHEN WAS THE DECISION MADE TO WITHDRAW FROM KARAMURSEL?

ANSWER: THE FUTURE OF US ACTIVITIES AT KARAMURSEL HAS BEEN UNDER REVIEW FOR SOME TIME. DETAILED PLANNING IS STILL IN PROGRESS AND VARIOUS DETAILS REMAIN TO BE DECIDED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY.
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B. QUESTION: WAS THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM KARAMURSEL INFLUENCED BY THE FACT THAT US INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION ACTIVITIES AT THAT LOCATION HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED BY TURKEY SINCE 1975?

ANSWER: NO. THERE IS NO CONNECTION.

4. YOU MAY INFORM GOT OF ABOVE INFORMATION TO EXTENT YOU CONSIDER APPROPRIATE. IN DOING SO, YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT GOT ALSO RESPOND TO POSSIBLE MEDIA INQUIRIES ALONG SAME LINES. STRESS THAT WE SAW THE NECESSITY TO INFORM CONGRESS IN A LOW KEY WAY OF OUR PLANS REGARDING KARAMURSEL TO AVOID ANY SURPRISES WHICH MIGHT COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS TO REPEAL EMBARGO LEGISLATION. WE BELIEVE THAT AN UNSOLICITED JOINT OR UNILATERAL ANNOUNCEMENT BY EITHER SIDE WOULD DRAW UNNECESSARY ATTENTION TO WHAT WE WISH TO TREAT AS A SIMPLE AND ROUTINE BASE CLOSURE ACTION. IMPORTANTLY, WE WANT TO AVOID ANY ERRONEOUS CONNOTATION EITHER THAT THE US IS BEING FORCED OUT OF KARAMURSEL IN CONTRADICTION TO GOT ASSURANCES RE US ACTIVITIES AFTER THE EMBARGO IS REMOVED OR THAT CLOSURE OF KARAMURSEL REFLECTS

TURKISH PRESSURE ON THE US AT THIS CRITICAL POINT IN THE
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. CHRISTOPHER

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